

TRIUMPH AT CHIMON ISLAND!



Having privately raised one million dollars for Chimon Island (center in photo), The Nature Conservancy purchased it on September 5, 1984, ensuring permanent protection of this important bird habitat off Norwalk, Connecticut, in Long Island Sound. On October 26, President Reagan signed legislation creating the Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge, which includes Chimon, Sheffield (far right in photo), and Falkner Islands, and Milford Point. Congressman Stewart McKinney, author and prime mover of the legislation, worked closely with Congressmen William Ratchford and Bruce Morrison, Senator Lowell Weicker, and Governor William O'Neill, Honorary Chairman of the Conservancy's Connecticut Critical Areas Program. See pages 3-9 for details.

Photo by Virginia Welch.

Connecticut Chapter

The Nature Conservancy

The Nature Conservancy
Connecticut Chapter
55 High Street
Box MMM
Wesleyan Station
Middletown, Connecticut 06457
Tel. (203) 344-0716

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WITH SPECIAL THANKS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

As a Conservancy member what do you get for your dues? A newsletter? Much more. You "get," in fact, the permanent preservation of places like Chimon Island and Benton Hill Fen.

As a member, your dues and additional contributions to our special appeals pay most of our Chapter operating costs — including necessary office expenses and salaries.

Your staff, in turn, make outstanding accomplishments in identifying, acquiring, and managing land — the key functions of TNC. Without these fine professional people, we wouldn't accomplish anything; and without those dollars from members, we couldn't hire the people.

Whenever your Chapter celebrates a fine achievement like the preservation of Chimon Island, it is the achievement of all our members, including the loyal payer of dues at the ten-dollar level.

So we hope you, as a member, will take time to congratulate yourself over Chimon Island. It could not have been saved without you. Your Chapter's staff and trustees are most grateful to you for being a part of the Conservancy team.

With your continuing help, we will now move along with our Chapter's major objective: The Connecticut Critical

continued on page 2

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY AT WORK

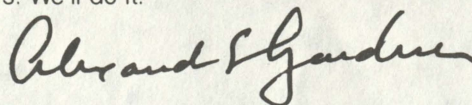
	Nationally	In Connecticut
Total projects	4,513	313
Total acres saved	2,232,027	14,829
Members	214,988	7,020
Corporate Associates	423	19
Tradeland Gifts Received	302	22



National Office: 1800 North Kent St., Arlington, Virginia 22209

continued from page 1

Areas Program. We have about \$1.5 million yet to raise, a year and a half to go, and some twenty critical natural areas to save. There are seven thousand of us, Connecticut Chapter members. We'll do it!



Alexander S. Gardner
Chairman

From the Land

Fall/1984

Published for the members of
the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy

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David P. Warren, *Director, Critical Areas Program*
Carolyn K. Evans, *Director of Land Protection*
Beth P. Lapin, *Director of Science and Stewardship*
Julie Lewin, *Director, Land Trust Service Bureau*
Polly W. Richter, *Office Manager and Editor*
Patricia A. Kendzior, *Executive Secretary*
Paula K. Rasch, *Secretary*

APPRECIATED SECURITIES

Do you own stocks, bonds, or other securities? And has the value of your holdings gone up recently? It's happening to many people.

The tax laws give you a great incentive to make gifts of such appreciated securities, as well as real estate and personal property. If you have held securities or property for more than a year and give them to The Nature Conservancy, you can take as a deduction against your current income the full present market value of the donated asset. You avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated value. And you may be able to reduce significantly your current income tax liability.

This represents a real opportunity for those who wish to help the Conservancy by making a significant gift to the Connecticut Critical Areas Program. Could this be the time for you?

When you give appreciated securities or real property, you don't have to worry about how to come up with the cash. The Conservancy handles the selling and the details. Our staff can work with your lawyer or accountant to devise the best plan for you. If interested, please call Ken Olson or David Warren at the Connecticut Chapter office. Your inquiry will be handled in full confidence.

CAMERA NEEDED

The Chapter needs a 35 mm single-lens reflex camera in good condition to photograph our preserves, meetings, and other events. If you have a camera you would consider donating, please give us a call. We'll put it to good use.

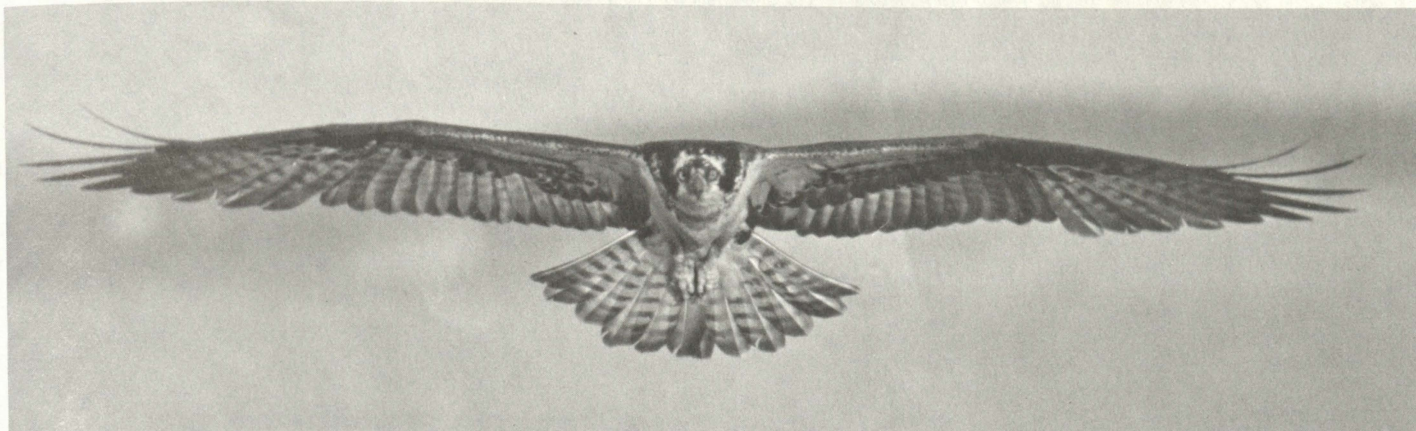
About Capital Gifts

The Critical Areas Program encompasses land acquisition, scientific inquiry, management of preserves, and administrative costs. We encourage capital donors, when possible, to give to the Connecticut Critical Areas Program without further restricting their contributions, so that no essential need will be unmet. If, however, a donor chooses to earmark a large contribution for a specific component of the Critical Areas Program, we will be pleased to honor the request. If a surplus should occur in the specified account, the surplus will be applied to other needs under the Critical Areas Program.

About Operating Gifts

Member dues, Acorn contributions, Corporate Associate gifts, and donations to the Chapter's spring and fall appeals support Chapter operations. Without these important contributions, the Conservancy would not be able to negotiate for land or keep the office doors open.

We hope that Conservancy members will, whenever possible, continue to support both needs — through major gifts to capital programs and through regular donations to Chapter operations.



The osprey, subject of a new film (see below), have wingspans of up to six feet.

Photo by Michael Male.

RETURN OF THE OSPREY

The amazing comeback of the osprey from near depletion in the Long Island Sound region has been documented by a new film, "Return of the Osprey." Filmmakers Michael Male and Judy Fieth spent five years filming several families of ospreys performing activities such as building nests, raising young, and catching fish. The film emphasizes successful conservation efforts, the recovery of osprey from the effects of DDT, and the enthusiasm of people all along the coast concerned about these birds.

Several Connecticut habitats are depicted in the film, including Great Island Marsh and Pattagansett Marshes, both Conservancy properties. The Connecticut Chapter was one of several sponsors for the first Connecticut screening, on October 30. For additional information, call: Connecticut River Watershed Council, 125 Combs Road, East Hampton, MA 01027, 413-584-0057.



The osprey mother and fledglings were photographed by Michael Male as part of a new film, "Return of the Osprey" (see article above). Several Conservancy preserves in Connecticut, including Pattagansett Marshes, Hatchett's Point, and Chapman's Pond, have fostered the dramatic comeback of the osprey in our state by providing critical habitat.

2ND ANNUAL LAND TRUST CONVOCATION HELD

Representatives from land trusts, conservation commissions and other groups gathered Saturday, September 29, for the Second Annual Connecticut Land Trust Convocation at the Yale Inn, Meriden. More than 100 individuals registered for seminars on: how to get gifts of land, how to negotiate easements, how to identify properties and acquire them for fair market value or less than fair market value, and how to raise money, develop membership and solve stewardship problems.

Chapter Chairman Alex Gardner delivered an address calling for a wholesale move by land trusts "from passive acquisition — in which the trusts wait for gifts of land to come to them — to active acquisition — in which trusts pursue target properties and even buy them outright."

Keynote speaker was Jean W. Hocker, Executive Director of the Jackson Hole (Wyoming) Land Trust, whose 3-year old organization has already preserved more than 1600 acres through conservation easements. Seminar leaders included Norman C. Smith, President of the Mashantucket Land Trust and member of the Town of Groton Inland Wetlands Agency; William Morrill, Chairman of the Land Trust Committee of The Salisbury Association and Chairman of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission; Carolie Evans, Past President of the Guilford Land Conservation Trust, Chairman of the Guilford Conservation Commission and now Director of Land Protection for TNC Connecticut Chapter; Robert Stewart, Vice President of the Suffield Land Conservancy and Chairman of the Suffield Water Pollution Control Authority, David Beglan, Past President of the Roxbury Land Trust, Chairman of Roxbury Planning Commission and member of the Roxbury Zoning Commission; and, John Cook, Director of Stewardship, TNC Eastern Regional Office. Peter Neill, Chairman of the Land Trust Service Bureau and Past President of the Branford Land Trust conducted the closing forum.

A gathering of this sort emphasizes the combined strength of the 82 Connecticut land trusts — some 16,000 members whose energies have made possible the protection of more than 16,000 acres. The Land Trust Service Bureau will hold the 3rd Annual Convocation of Land Trusts in Fall 1985.

HILDEGARDE PLEHN

The Nature Conservancy has lost a great friend with the death of Hildegard Plehn of Litchfield. As a long-standing trustee of the Connecticut Chapter in its infancy, she worked hard at linking easement to easement along the scenic stretches of Litchfield's Bantam River. Over the last twenty years, Mrs. Plehn masterminded thirty separate transactions that led to the permanent protection of nearly six miles of riparian field and forest flanking the Bantam River, and to widespread use of easements as a conservation tool in Connecticut and elsewhere.

A member of several local conservation groups, Mrs. Plehn took a leadership role in the creation of The Litchfield Conservation Commission and served as its first chairman. The Conservancy is far richer for its close association with so dedicated a leader, and we will miss her energy, concern, and counsel.



The Conservancy's 1983 Award for Outstanding Progress was presented to the Connecticut Chapter at TNC's annual meeting in Norfolk, Virginia in September. Left to right are Alexander Gardner, Chapter Chairman; David Warren, Director, Connecticut Critical Areas Program; W. Kent Olson, Chapter Executive Director; Dennis Wolkoff, Vice President, Eastern Region; and Carolie Evans, Connecticut Director of Land Protection.

Photo by William Ross

TNC BOOKS - ORDER BLANK

- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of *Country Walks in Connecticut: A Guide to The Nature Conservancy Preserves*.
Non-Members—\$8.47 per book
Members—\$7.40 per book
(includes \$1.00 for postage/handling)

- ☐ Please send me _____ copies of *The Connecticut Land Trust Handbook*
\$14.95 per copy (includes postage/handling)

- ☐ Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Please send order form and check to The Nature Conservancy, CT Chapter, P.O. Box MMM, Wesleyan Station, Middletown, CT 06457.

Prices include 7½% Conn. sales tax.



New Chapter staff. Top: Beth Lapin and Carolyn Evans. Bottom: Paula Rasch and Julie Lewin.

WELCOME, NEW STAFF

Chairman Alexander Gardner recently announced four appointments. Beth Lapin has been named Director of Science and Stewardship, replacing Susan Cooley. Ms. Lapin holds a master's in biology from California State University in Hayward. A native of Connecticut, she has worked for the Conservancy in Colorado, Wyoming, and, most recently, in Puerto Rico, where she was consultant to the Department of Natural Resources.

Carolie Evans has joined as Director of Land Protection, in charge of the Chapter's acquisition activity. In addition, she will serve as registrar in the upcoming voluntary land protection program to be jointly initiated by the Conservancy and DEP. She is responsible as well for supervising the Land Trust Service Bureau and its new director, Julie Lewin. Carolie is past president of Guilford Land Trust and is an alumna of Cornell University.

Paula Rasch, Chapter secretary, comes to the Conservancy from a six-year career at Raymond Engineering. She is a graduate of Middlesex Community College, where she is pursuing a second degree in Business Administration. Her interests include wildlife painting and the rearing of pugs. Paula and her husband Paul, a quality control manager, are members of several conservation organizations.

Julie Lewin joins the Conservancy as Director of the Connecticut Land Trust Service Bureau. Her job is to help the state's 82 independent land trusts acquire property. Julie has experience as development director at another non-profit organization and has worked for the Connecticut Department of Corrections and the Pennsylvania State Legislature. Her articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Nation*, *Parade*, *The Hartford Courant*, and *News Day*. Julie earned her bachelor's degree from Barnard College.

DEDICATION — CHIMON ISLAND

"The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter hereby dedicates Chimon Island to the people of the Northeast and to the principle that men and herons can live together to the benefit of both. 'No man is an island,' said John Donne.

"This dedication recognizes the generosity of many individuals whose commitment has made possible the saving of a wild and beautiful place. It honors the work of several fine organizations, agencies, governments, and the hopeful and visionary efforts of a united and bipartisan congressional delegation and the Governor of Connecticut, who labored to add Chimon to the National Wildlife Refuge system.

"This dedication further recognizes that we temporary residents of this planet are but coinhabitants and not sole owners, and that what we have saved today and will save tomorrow adds immeasurably to the quality of life for all, and is consistent with the objectives of good business, wise philanthropy, and proper stewardship.

"To these propositions we proudly dedicate Chimon Island, in the name of The Nature Conservancy, as a wildlife preserve to remain forever as part of our common natural bounty."

— BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

CONSERVANCY BUYS CHIMON ISLAND

On September 8 the Chapter celebrated the permanent protection of 70-acre Chimon Island. Chapter officials had quietly concluded the \$1.13 million purchase deal on September 5, just ten days before the Conservancy's option was to expire and with it the last chance to save the largest herony in Long Island Sound and one of the most important bird breeding sites on the northeast coast.

The celebration was held at Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, under clear skies within sight of Chimon and other islands in the beautiful Norwalk archipelago. More than 200 members and friends of the Chapter participated, including Congressmen Stewart McKinney and William R. Ratchford, Mrs. Jane Morrison (wife of Congressman Bruce Morrison), Commissioner Stanley J. Pac (DEP), State Forester Robert Garrepy (DEP), Dr. Hugo Thomas (Director, Natural Resources Center, DEP), Mason Walsh, (Former Chairman TNC Board of Governors), TNC President William D. Blair, Jr., TNC Vice President Dennis Wolkoff. Ms. Marilyn Cruz, aide to the Governor, read a letter of congratulations from Governor William O'Neill, Honorary Chairman of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

President Blair delivered the main address, citing the superb efforts of Connecticut's volunteers and staff, congratulating the Chapter on earning TNC's 1983 Award for Outstanding Progress, and reminding those assembled of the vital importance of protecting natural diversity in Connecticut and elsewhere.

SPECIAL THANKS TO A SPECIAL FAMILY

At the Chimon Island dedication, Bill Blair, Alex Gardner and Ken Olson joined in expressing appreciation for some very special friends of the Chapter. In honor of their spirit and commitment, Olson said to the audience:

"Sitting among you today are a family who have pledged to the Critical Areas Program, toward the purchase of Chimon Island, the largest cash gift ever contributed to the Conservancy in Connecticut. I won't name them publicly or ask them to stand, because I don't want to embarrass them. But I do want to say, for everyone in earshot, that The Nature Conservancy is deeply appreciative.

"Your family has helped make possible the most significant conservation achievement in the history of this state, and I hope you will take great personal satisfaction in knowing that your altruism has resulted in a permanent gift to all people, for all time, and guarantees — as much as anything can be guaranteed in this uncertain world — a habitat for the beautiful long-legged birds of Long Island Sound.

"You are great philanthropists on two counts: One, you have given so mightily; and two, you have, through your selflessness, made a permanent contribution to the betterment of all of Connecticut and of the northeast coast. And, you've done it so quietly. Please know that we hold you in great esteem, and that we, all of us on the staff and in the corps of volunteers of The Nature Conservancy, pledge to make your splendid gift work hard."

CONGRESS CREATES CONNECTICUT COASTAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

On October 26, President Reagan signed legislation to create the Connecticut Coastal National Wildlife Refuge, earlier called the Chimon Island National Wildlife Refuge Act, culminating a bipartisan effort by the entire Connecticut delegation to ensure permanent protection of four critical bird breeding habitats in Long Island Sound.

The action authorizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire the following four properties:

- Chimon Island – the largest wading-bird rookery on Long Island Sound, habitat for more than 2,000 nesting herons including several species which nest nowhere else in Connecticut.
- Sheffield Island – second largest of the Norwalk Islands, habitat for American oystercatchers, heron feeding area, and potential site for the herons of Chimon Island.
- Milford Point – a ten-acre tombolo at the mouth of the Housatonic River, breeding area for the piping plover, a coastal bird being considered for listing as a federally threatened species.
- Falkner Island – a four-and-one-half acre island off Guilford, one of only four breeding sites for the roseate tern in its northern North American range. Falkner is owned by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Work on the Connecticut Coastal Refuge began last spring. On April 12, Representative Stewart B. McKinney, R-4th District, introduced legislation to authorize the refuge, co-sponsored by the entire House delegation. Senator Weicker, with Senator Dodd, introduced the companion bill on May 11.

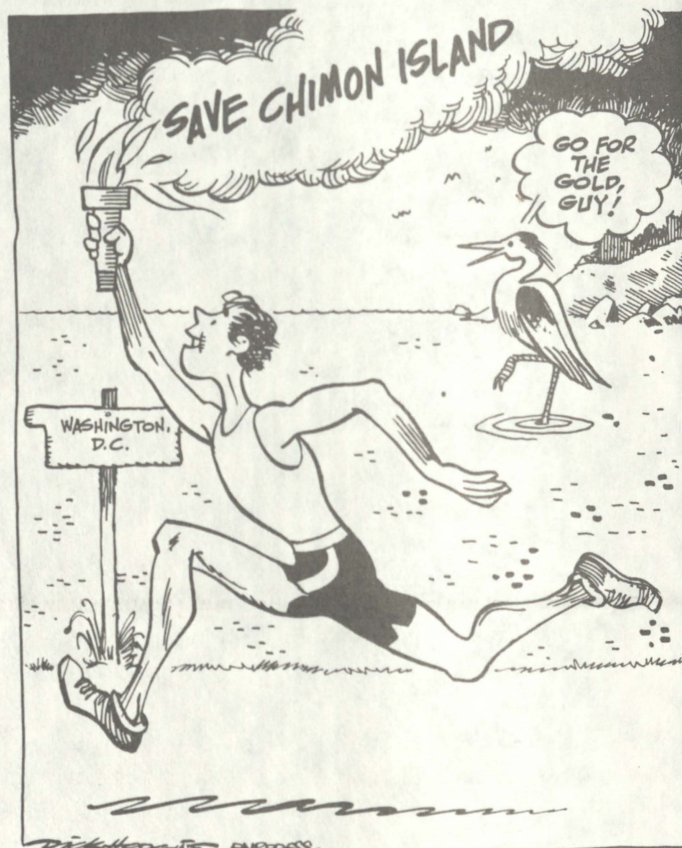
In June, the House Committee on Appropriations approved the 1985 Interior Appropriations bill, which included \$2.5 million for the Connecticut refuge. This provision had been introduced by Connecticut Representative William Ratchford, D-5, a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee. The appropriations bill received House approval on August 2, the same day the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee heard testimony on the McKinney bill.

Executive Director Ken Olson testified on August 2, stressing the critical importance of these areas and the development pressure which threatened Chimon Island. Dr. John Reiger, Executive Director of Connecticut Audubon Society, and Carolyn Richter of the Sierra Club also testified urging prompt passage.

A proposal to drop Milford Point from the refuge was rejected by the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee thanks to the efforts of McKinney and Representative Bruce Morrison, D-3. Morrison told the Committee of plans to develop Milford Point into condominiums which would destroy the critical nesting area on the Point. He also reaffirmed the State of Connecticut's interest in protecting Milford Point, adding that he had met privately with Governor William O'Neill to assure state support.

On September 11, the House passed the McKinney bill by unanimous voice vote. The Senate Committee on Public Works and Environment reported on the Weicker bill on September 26.

Final approval was delayed due to the Senate debate over the continuing resolution, a catch-all federal spending measure. Early on Thursday, October 4, near the end of an all-night Senate marathon, the Connecticut refuge bill was attached to the Wetlands Loan Act, a non-controversial measure, and was passed by unanimous consent. This revised bill was then sent back to the House, where it passed without dissent Thursday afternoon, one day before Congress was scheduled to adjourn for the year.



Reprinted with permission from the Fairpress.

The Nature Conservancy will now sell Chimon Island to the Fish and Wildlife Service for its cost plus expenses, a total price of \$1.3 million, well under the island's appraised value. This sale means that every dollar raised privately for Chimon will, in effect, "roll over" and be made available a second time, to protect critical habitats elsewhere in the state. The Conservancy has raised close to \$1,000,000 in cash and pledges from private sources toward Chimon Island.

Vice Chairman Peter Neill had high praise for the entire Connecticut delegation. "This is perhaps the most important piece of conservation legislation in Connecticut's history, and symbolizes a true bipartisan effort to protect our natural resources and improve the quality of life in Connecticut."

Special appreciation also goes to the following great professionals for their diligent work, usually behind the scenes, without whom the effort to save Chimon would have failed: Sally Bolster, Marilyn Cruz, Jeff Curtis, Kris Healy, Ronald LeFrancois, Kevin Lynch, Michael Lyons, Trevor O'Neill, Phil Palmer, Perry Pockros, Nancy Reichley, Ed Richardson, Tony Roda, John Ryan, and Jane Uebelhoer.



Left to right: Connecticut Congressmen William Ratchford, Stewart McKinney, and Bruce Morrison testify to the House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation, and the Environment on August 2, urging passage of federal legislation to create the Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Photo by Susan Bournique.

CONSERVATION COLLEAGUE: CONNECTICUT AUDUBON SOCIETY

At the Chimon dedication, the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS) was awarded the title of Conservation Colleague. As early as 1981, CAS began an ambitious program of monitoring the herons on Chimon Island. In the following years, research projects were extended to include nesting requirements and identification of coastal feeding areas and food items. Data from these projects, partially funded by TNC, documented the importance of the island and augmented the final impetus to purchase and permanently protect Chimon Island. In addition, CAS has been a vocal advocate for the wildlife refuge bill.



John Reiger, Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society (CAS), accepts from TNC President William Blair a Conservancy award that reads: "Whereas the Connecticut Audubon Society is a leading advocate of conservation; whereas it has spoken plainly and consistently in behalf of maintaining the aesthetic and biologic health of the state; whereas it has continued to marshal the considerable resources of its volunteers and staff in behalf of educating all people to the intricacies and joys of untrammelled nature; and whereas it has undertaken valuable ornithological research culminating in the permanent protection of Chimon Island, a rookery of national significance, The Nature Conservancy is pleased to confer upon the Connecticut Audubon Society the title of Conservation Colleague. May the working partnership between these two fine organizations endure and grow."

Photograph by Andrea Laubach.

CITY OF NORWALK DONATES \$100,000 TO CHIMON ISLAND

Mayor William Collins of Norwalk presented to Conservancy President William Blair a check for \$100,000, as a donation from the city toward Chimon Island. In appreciation, the Conservancy honored the City with a certificate that read: "Whereas Mayor William Collins has consistently demonstrated his commitment to land conservation and to a high quality of life for residents of Norwalk; whereas Mayor Thomas O'Connor, during his administration, recognized the opportunity to protect Chimon Island and marshalled the support of City leadership; whereas the Norwalk Common Council underscored its commitment to the preservation of Chimon Island by voting funds for its purchase; and whereas through the dedication and foresight of the parties cited above, Chimon Island will remain forever wild, a lasting and positive benefit for the residents of Norwalk and Connecticut alike, The Nature Conservancy is pleased to confer upon the City of Norwalk the title of Conservation Colleague."



Facsimile check for \$100,000 is presented by Norwalk Mayor William Collins to Conservancy President William Blair.

Photograph by Andrea Laubach.

CRITICAL AREAS PROGRAM REACHES \$1.5 MILLION MARK

The Connecticut Chapter has reached the midway point in its ambitious \$3.1 million Connecticut Critical Areas Program. An impressive \$1.5 million has been raised in cash and pledges since the program began in earnest in early 1983. Chairman Alex Gardner extended the trustees' heartfelt thanks to the many individuals, corporations, and foundations who have made significant contributions. Said Gardner, "Our very solid financial position is testament to the continued strong support of our members and reflects some extraordinary leadership gifts from a few individuals and corporations. We are deeply grateful. I have every hope that we will reach our goal."

TO SAVE AN ISLAND. . .

1958 – William Garofalo purchases Chimon Island for \$65,000.

1965 – Connecticut Department of Agriculture recommends the acquisition of Chimon Island for recreation.

1968 – Norwalk Planning Commission designates Chimon Island as a future park site in the City's Open Space Plan. Local businessmen and conservationists form Association to Save the Norwalk Islands (ASNI).

January 15, 1969 – At invitation of Morton P. Mathew of ASNI, William L. French, Northeast Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS); Charles A. Clark, Chairman, Connecticut Chapter, The Nature Conservancy, and J. Stanley Quickmire, New England Field Representative, National Audubon Society, tour the Norwalk Islands. At reception afterwards, *Norwalk Hour* reports, French "spoke so glowingly of the natural beauty and esthetic values of the local islands, there was considerable optimism among the conservationists present." Clark says that TNC has access to Ford Foundation funds which would allow the Conservancy to borrow from any bank with Ford Foundation endorsement to purchase island provided TNC had been so instructed by a federal agency. According to French, FWS would probably not be able to assist Norwalk in acquiring the islands, as FWS was interested in migratory waterfowl and endangered species of birds and saw little evidence that the Norwalk islands fit either category. He added, "It's a shame, because the islands are so beautiful."

May 25, 1970 – Norwalk Planning and Zoning Commission completes its study of the Norwalk islands and unanimously recommends acquisition of Chimon.

1971 – City of Norwalk, under Mayor Frank Zullo, appropriates \$200,000 for a restricted capital account for Norwalk Islands acquisition.

Summer, 1971 – Saugatuck Valley Audubon Society hires David Berg as a researcher and warden on the island and begins regular boat trips to island.

October 26, 1971 – City of Norwalk secures a 90-day option from Garofalo on all but 20 acres (retained by Garofalo) of Chimon Island for \$662,000.

November 2, 1971 – Mayor Zullo files Norwalk's application to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a 50% federal grant toward purchase under the Legacy of Parks program.

January 26, 1972 – HUD money not awarded due to difference of opinion on Chimon acreage. City's option expires.

May, 1975 – CT legislature approves \$500,000 bond authorization for the acquisition of Chimon and Sheffield Islands.

December 17, 1976 – Charles Scott, TNC CT Chapter Executive Director, and Evan Griswold meet with ASNI to plan a new effort to purchase Chimon Island. The Conservancy emphasizes to ASNI that TNC is a national organization with national fundraising experience and has considerable experience dealing with state and federal agencies in land acquisition.

June, 1977 – Garofalo offers Chimon Island to City for \$1.5 million. Matter is referred to the Conservation Commission.

July 13, 1977 – TNC's Mason Morfit and Evan Griswold, new Executive Director, meet with the Conservation Commission, ASNI, Southwestern Regional Planning Agency, and Norwalk Planning and Zoning Commission to discuss Garofalo's recent offer. Meeting identifies the possible \$1.4 million available for Chimon using funds from the City, State of Connecticut, and a 50% federal match from the Land and Water Conservation Fund administered by the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation.

August 1, 1977 – Senator Abraham Ribicoff introduces a bill to establish the Long Island Sound Heritage bill to "restore, preserve and protect areas reflecting the unique natural and cultural heritage of the region." Fifteen locations in Connecticut and New York were recommended for initial inclusion, among them Chimon and Sheffield Islands. On October 25, 1975, Connecticut Congressmen Giaimo, McKinney and Dodd introduce a companion bill in the U.S. House of Representatives. (Bill later dies.)

January 24, 1978 – Griswold attends meeting of Norwalk Common Council to discuss Conservancy's plans for protection of Chimon. Common Council votes to earmark \$201,233 (balance of the Island Acquisition Account) for the purchase of Chimon.

March, 1978 – Dick Weinstein, Norwalk attorney and member of the Conservancy's National Board of Governors, meets with Garofalo in Florida. Garofalo is asking \$1.1 million.

November 15, 1978 – TNC completes independent appraisal of Chimon Island which values the property at \$465,000.

November 30, 1978 – Dix Leeson, TNC Eastern Regional Office, sends letter to Garofalo offering \$375,000. Garofalo rejects.

December, 1979 – Griswold reports negotiations stalled, too large a gap between TNC price and Garofalo's. The "situation appears completely irreconcilable."

January 9, 1979 – Letter from Griswold to Norwalk Mayor William Collins reaffirming the Conservancy's interest in Chimon Island. Griswold says that Conservancy is prepared to make Garofalo an offer. On same day, Collins receives a letter from Albert Garofalo, attorney and brother of William, suggesting negotiations be resumed if City is still interested.

January 24, 1981 – Trustee Alex Gardner meets with William Garofalo, Mrs. Garofalo, and son, William, Jr., at senior Garofalo's home in Singer Island, Florida. Garofalo feels the Conservancy's appraisal is too low to be taken seriously. Gardner learns that Garofalo was close to selling the property to developers for over \$1,000,000. Meeting is cordial and productive.

January 30, 1981 – Jack Houseknecht, Norwalk Land Trust, calls the Conservancy office to report that reliable sources confirm that Garofalo does not want to go another year without selling Chimon. Houseknecht added that Garofalo feels that TNC's latest offer of \$475,000 was very low and Garofalo would like to come away with at least \$800,000 net.

April 16, 1981 – State of Connecticut cancels the balance of \$500,000 for the acquisition of Chimon and Sheffield Islands.

Summer, 1981 – Connecticut Audubon Society begins first summer of intensive ornithological research at Chimon, under Milan Bull, which will continue for another three years.

November 4, 1981 – Letter from Gardner to Garofalo reaffirms the Conservancy's strong interest in the protection of Chimon Island.

May 13, 1982 – Gardner calls Zullo, now Garofalo's personal attorney, and confirms that Chimon Island is now listed with Previews, Inc. for \$2.5 million.

September 15, 1982 – Gardner, Ken Olson (Executive Director) and TNC Legislative Representative Nat Williams present award to Congressman Stewart McKinney, in Washington, D.C. office, for help with TNC's earlier Chapman's Pond project. McKinney confides: "Chimon Island will be developed over my dead body."

November, 1982 – Olson visits William Garofalo in Florida, sees \$1.6 million offer from developer.

April 26, 1983 – Olson writes Garofalo explaining the possible benefits of a hypothetical bargain sale at \$1,000,000. Suggests a meeting in Connecticut.

June 1, 1983 – Olson, David Warren (Director, Critical Areas Program) and Phil Tabas (TNC attorney), meet with Garofalo and Zullo in Norwalk. TNC makes formal offer for \$1,000,000 assuming a one-year option. Garofalo, who wants a six-month option, replies that he has received offers from developers that would net him more. TNC and Garofalo are at least \$300,000 apart. TNC emphasizes philanthropic and tax advantages of a sale to Conservancy. Gardner and Peter Cooper, Chapter Acquisition Chairman, helped with strategy.

June 15, 1983 – Olson, Warren, and Tabas meet again with Garofalo, Zullo, and Garofalo's advisors to discuss the tax aspects of a bargain sale. After private conference call with TNC Vice President Dennis Wolkoff, TNC increases its offer to \$1,030,000. Talk focuses on back taxes owed by Garofalo. Zullo agrees to approach the City on the possibility of a tax abatement.

June 30, 1983 – Warren, Gardner, and Tabas meet with Norwalk Mayor Thomas O'Connor and City Finance Director Ralph Ireland at the Bridgeport office of Congressman Stewart McKinney. McKinney's aide, Sally Bolster, leads meeting. O'Connor and Ireland agree to pursue abatement of back taxes on the island, approximately \$86,000. No guarantees are made, however, since this would have to be approved by Claims Committee and the Norwalk Common Council. For its participation, the City would want public access to part of the island, although City understands Conservancy's concern is for the protection of the herons.

July 18, 1983 – Olson and Warren meet with Garofalo and Zullo, ask Garofalo to sign letter of intent binding him to the signing of a one-year option for \$1,030,000 assuming the City of Norwalk commits to an abatement. Garofalo gives his oral agreement but does not sign.

July 21, 1983 – Zullo calls Olson. Garofalo will sign an option contingent upon the City's decision. Zullo and Tabas to work out the language.

August 4, 1983 – Claims Committee of the Norwalk Common Council meets to consider granting a tax abatement to Garofalo. Olson and Gardner attend to explain the Conservancy's imminent option and benefits to the City in protecting Chimon Island. Claims Committee votes to recommend to the Council the abatement of taxes.

August 9, 1983 – Claims Committee reports to the Norwalk Common Council. Warren and Gardner speak before the Council. Council votes to authorize John Ryan, Norwalk Corporation Counsel, to negotiate with Conservancy and Garofalo.

August 12, 1983 – Ryan and Zullo meet with Olson and Warren in Norwalk. Ryan reports that considerable opposition to tax abatement and argues that it is not appropriate to pursue issue. Ryan suggests that the City vote instead to commit \$100,000 from its Island Acquisition Account contingent upon the Conservancy exercising its option. In return, the City of Norwalk would have representation on a committee to plan for public access to part of the island.

August 15, 1983 – Garofalo signs option for \$1,130,000, contingent upon the City of Norwalk voting \$100,000 toward the purchase.

August 23, 1983 – At invitation of Representative McKinney, William Ashe, Deputy Director of FWS, Eastern Region, tours Chimon with Milan Bull of Connecticut Audubon Society, and TNC Staff.

September 19, 1983 – Planning Committee of the Norwalk Common Council holds a public hearing to consider the \$100,000 contribution. TNC attends. Favorable testimony is heard from several people who have been working for years behind the scenes, among them Roland Clement, Jack Houseknecht, Sally Bolster, many other individuals and groups. Planning Committee votes 4-1 for \$100,000 expenditure.

September 27, 1983 – In an 11-3 vote, the Norwalk Common Council endorses recommendation of the Planning Committee. The City of Norwalk will contribute \$100,000 if and when the Conservancy exercises its option. Option now in effect. Garofalo is legally bound to sell to TNC, which has just one year to raise \$1.13 million.

November 10, 1983 – Oral pledge made for large leadership gift toward purchase.

April 12, 1984 – McKinney introduces a bill to establish the Chimon Island National Wildlife Refuge, to include Chimon, Sheffield, and Falkner islands and Milford Point, at cost of \$2.5 million. Measure is co-sponsored by the entire Connecticut House delegation.

April 16, 1984 – Governor William A. O'Neill sends a letter to McKinney in support of the Chimon Island Refuge: "Such an important conservation achievement will be a permanent gift to the people of Connecticut and splendid way to help preserve the biologic health and natural beauty of Long Island Sound."

May 4, 1984 – Dr. John Reiger, Executive Director of the Connecticut Audubon Society, writes a letter to Congressman John Breaux, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and Environment, urging immediate favorable action on McKinney bill.

May 11, 1984 – Senator Weicker, with Senator Dodd, introduces the Chimon Island National Wildlife Refuge bill in the Senate.

June 1, 1984 – National Audubon Society pledges its strong support of bill, asks that name of bill be changed to Connecticut Coastal Wildlife Refuge Act.

June 19, 1984 – House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee marks up the Interior appropriations bill for fiscal year 1985. Congressman William Ratchford adds a \$2.5 million amendment for the Chimon Island Wildlife Refuge, contingent upon authorization of the Chimon bill.

June 28, 1984 – House Committee on Appropriations reports favorably on the Department of Interior appropriations bill, including the \$2.5 million Chimon amendment.

August 2, 1984 – Entire House approves Interior appropriations bill for fiscal 1985. The \$2.5 million Ratchford amendment remains in place. The House Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife Conservation and the Environment holds hearing on the McKinney bill. Olson testifies along with Reiger; Carolyn Richter, Sierra Club; and Congressmen McKinney, Ratchford, and Bruce Morrison. Subsequent move by Subcommittee to drop Milford Point from bill is thwarted by McKinney, Morrison, and Governor O'Neill.

September 5, 1984 – The Nature Conservancy purchases Chimon for \$1,130,000, the largest single acquisition ever completed in the history of the Connecticut Chapter.

September 8, 1984 – More than two hundred people gather at Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, to celebrate the protection of Connecticut's largest heron rookery.

September 11, 1984 – The House votes approval of Chimon bill.

September 19, 1984 – President Ronald Reagan visits Waterbury, CT, publicly endorses Chimon bill.

September 26, 1984 – The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee reports favorably on Weicker version.

October 4, 1984 – Congress votes approval of revised Chimon bill, will send to President for signature. TNC Legislative Representative Williams calls Connecticut Chapter: "Hey, baby, it's a done deal!"

October 11, 1984 – Congress approves first \$1.5 million of authorized amount.

October 26, 1984 – President Reagan signs McKinney bill in Fairfield, CT.

WITH THANKS TO FRIENDS OF THE CONNECTICUT CRITICAL AREAS PROGRAM

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This list of benefactors, current as of October 30, 1984, may contain omissions. Please inform us if we failed to include your name. The Connecticut Chapter wishes also to thank its 7,000 members whose dues and other contributions towards the Chapter's general purposes are helping to assure success of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

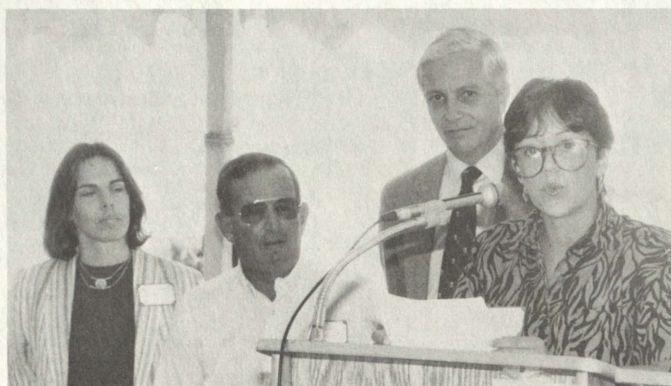
A LITTLE HELP FROM . . .

. . . Leaders

Governor William A. O'Neill, Jr.: "The effort to save Chimon Island and to create the Chimon Island National Wildlife Refuge is the result of the earnest endeavors of many individuals and organizations. Surely, The Nature Conservancy deserves the lion's share of the credit, for it has worked long and hard on this project and has maintained a spirit of optimism and tenacity which spearheaded the efforts to bring this project to fruition . . . As Governor of the State of Connecticut and as Honorary Chairman of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program, I am proud to have been able to contribute to the joint effort to save one of the most important heron rookeries on the eastern seaboard."

M.B. Oglesby, Jr., Assistant to the President of the United States: "... [W]e agree . . . that [the area covered by the Chimon Island Wildlife Refuge Act] is indeed a productive region for shore and wading birds. As such, its protection in its natural state should be a goal we all share. . . . The Administration would thus support its authorization for inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge System and its eventual acquisition."

Senator Lowell P. Weicker, Jr.: "Congratulations to . . . The Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy . . . It is because of your efforts, and others who also believe that diligence, combined with caring, is a way to achieve great things for the future, that we are dedicating Chimon Island as permanent wildlife refuge. . . . Keep up your great and vital work."



Left to right: Jane Morrison, wife of Congressman Bruce Morrison who, with others, fought successfully to include Milford Point and Falkner Island in the Chimon bill; Congressman Stewart McKinney, author and prime mover of the Chimon bill; Congressman William Ratchford, who secured the \$2.5 million House appropriation; Marilyn Cruz, aide to Governor William O'Neill who, as Honorary Chairman of the Conservancy's Connecticut Critical Areas Program, gave early and continuing support to the private and public efforts to protect the islands. Photograph by Andrea Laubach.

Congressman Sam Gejdenson: "Much of the credit for the preservation of this beautiful and unique area must go to The Nature Conservancy . . . Their patience and hard work have at last been rewarded with the acquisition of the island. It is highly appropriate and well deserved that this year the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy has been honored by its national leadership with the Outstanding Chapter Progress Award."



David Warren, Critical Areas Director, confers with Kathryn Frankel, press aide to Senator Lowell Weicker, author of the Senate version of the Chimon bill. Photograph by Andrea Laubach.

Congresswoman Nancy Johnson: "The Nature Conservancy has once again displayed farsightedness with respect to [Connecticut's] natural resources, as it has throughout North America. Its efforts will perhaps best be recognized in the future, when we are all able to fully appreciate the natural wonders of the island, which may not have been otherwise preserved."

Congresswoman Barbara Kennelly: "The statement made by The Nature Conservancy's action . . . is clear: protecting wildlife is as vital to our survival on this planet as is having clear air to breathe and clean water to drink."

Congressman Bruce Morrison: "The . . . bill authorizes the purchase of two sites in my congressional district, Milford Point and Falkner Island. These properties are also part of The Nature Conservancy's Critical Areas Program . . . [T]he whole country can be benefitted by these lands being set aside, these species being protected, and the onslaught of development which is otherwise inevitable being kept at least within some reasonable bounds."

Dr. John Reiger, Executive Director, Connecticut Audubon Society: "When our researchers identified Chimon Island as an extremely critical habitat, The Nature Conservancy was in the perfect position to save the island from destructive development. Through the vision of your Critical Areas Program, and your heroic fundraising efforts on this project, you literally saved the day for these thousands of long-legged wading birds."

. . . The Press

Fairpress: "But the threat of development remains, which is why the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, a national conservation organization, is working hard to purchase the island, which it could then sell to the federal government . . . This joint effort by Republican and Democratic congressmen, conservationists, and city officials underscores the reasons why saving Chimon Island is seen as a vital move and not just by hardcore proponents of open space development. Keeping the island wild is a critical and environmentally sound objective that deserves the kind of broad based support it is receiving this week in Washington."

The Middletown Press: "The House voted six days after The Nature Conservancy officials had closed a \$1.13 million agreement to buy Chimon Island and preserve it from being sold and sub-divided for housing. Thus, once again, The Nature Conservancy has been able to move fast enough to save an important site from being lost forever."

The Middletown Press: "'Fantastic' is the way Stewart B. McKinney, R., of Westport, described the House action on the bill he sponsored. 'Without getting maudlin about the whole thing,' he said, 'there is very little you do around here that lasts forever. What really excites me about this is that it is permanent.' . . . Thus, once again, The Nature Conservancy has been able to move fast enough to save an important site from being lost."

New Haven Register: "Some of the parcels in question, set so appealingly on Long Island Sound, have been the object of desire by developers who envision condominiums or single-family dwellings as more desirable (and profitable) there than breeding grounds, feeding areas, or resting spots for some two-hundred-fifty different kinds of birds, including rare and endangered species. Creating the federal refuge will assure this wildlife of a permanent home and, in the case of one bird species, preserve its last remaining breeding ground in the world."

New Haven Register: "Things are looking better for the birds who call Milford Point, Chimon, Sheffield, and Falkner's Islands home . . . Creating the federal wildlife refuge will assure this wildlife of a permanent home and, in the case of one bird species, preserve its last remaining breeding ground in the world . . . Chalk one up for the Connecticut Congressional delegation in its fight for the birds."

The Hartford Courant: "Development along Connecticut's coast is proceeding at such a rapid clip that it ought to inspire Congress to keep pace by creating the Chimon Island National Wildlife Refuge this session . . . There is no time to waste. Every day drives up the value of the property and increases the pressure from real estate developers to acquire it."

The Advocate: "The proposed federal funding does not present any substantial drain on the federal budget . . . And Connecticut has not been the recipient of any great amount of federal investment in land purchases or protection. Only 0.3% of the state is federally owned. That's the smallest percentage in the nation. . . . [P]reservation would safeguard our wildlife and environment at a bargain rate."



Mason Walsh, former chairman of the Conservancy's Board of Governors and present counsel to the Richard K. Mellon Foundation, holds photograph of Chimon that he presented to special friends of the Connecticut Critical Areas Program.

Photograph by
Andrea Laubach.

Fairfield County Magazine: "Armed with the data compiled by Connecticut Audubon, The Nature Conservancy is actually negotiating the purchase of Chimon Island . . . The little-known non-profit conservation organization has been responsible for the preservation of two million acres in the U.S. and the Caribbean, with over 12,000 acres in Connecticut. . . . Believing that 'actions speak louder than words,' the 130,000-member Conservancy acquires lands for nature sanctuaries with funds obtained by membership dues, individual contributions, foundation grants."

. . . Members

From Glastonbury, CT: "We are very excited about saving this habitat and the possibility of a national wildlife refuge."

From Preserve the Wetlands, Inc., Norwalk, CT: "We are pleased to enclose our check . . . to aid in your work . . . We wish it could have been more. . ."

From Westport, CT: "We are delighted to be associated in a small way with The Nature Conservancy and in particular with your purchase of Chimon Island . . . We greatly admire the Conservancy and exult in your many achievements . . . Congratulations."

From East Lyme, CT: "Congratulations on your latest coup for TNC! . . . You are amassing a fine record of achievement for Connecticut conservation. . ."

From Hampton, New Hampshire: "After reading in *The Boston Globe* up here in the White Mountains of the need for funds to save Chimon Island, I am moved to send enclosed check to the Conservancy."

From Silver Spring, Maryland: "It would be tragic if Chimon Island cannot be kept as a rookery for the herons, ibises, and egrets."

From Rowayton, CT: "A donation (although small) toward the purchase of Chimon Island — a place I've long been a part of — it *must* be realized."

From Jensen Beach, FLA: "I saw a lot of change as I grew up in a 'small town' which turned into a . . . city. Of course, the wildlife was the first to go . . . Now I live in Florida, a state which is being bulldozed into a plain of concrete . . . Anyway, enclosed is a donation to help you buy the island. I hope you get enough funds."

From South Norwalk, CT: "I am lucky. I live on a small saltwater marsh where, if I climb to the roof of the old boat barn on the property, I can see Chimon Island in the distance. But I don't have to see it to know and be glad it is there . . . For I see Chimon's residents — the egrets and herons — that visit the marsh alongside my house. In fact, we often eat breakfast together or share a sunset . . . I'm sending this [contribution]; it is small, but big for me; in fact, it is my vacation money for the summer. But I give it to The Nature Conservancy gladly because [Chimon] sends forth her 'children' each day and that brings me much delight!"

From Los Angeles, CA: "We do indeed have to stick together on important work like this; one living planet is all we have been deeded."

From Indianapolis, IN: "Thanks for the opportunity to be a part of such an important project."

From Milford, CT: "Chimon Island is indeed of great importance to us all and we are pleased to enclose our check . . . to assist in securing this island."



Left to right: TNC President William Blair, Critical Areas Program Director David Warren, Mrs. Joan O. Tweedy, member, and Connecticut Chapter Chairman Alexander Gardner. Photograph by Andrea Laubach.



William Garofalo (left), who generously sold Chimon to TNC at substantially less than market value, speaks with Jack Houseknecht of Norwalk Land Trust. Houseknecht, Roland Clement, John Souther, and other prominent citizens of southwest Connecticut worked for many years to make possible the preservation of Chimon Island.

Photograph by Andrea Laubach.

CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING

Immediately preceding the Chimon Island dedication on September 8, more than 200 members and officials of the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy gathered at Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, for the 24th Annual Meeting. Chapter Chairman Alex Gardner welcomed the assemblage and opened the business meeting.

Re-elected as officers were Alexander Gardner, Chairman; Peter Neill, Vice Chairman; John Blum, Treasurer; and Peter Cooper, Secretary. A. Eugene Billings, Jr., of Norfolk, President of the Norfolk Land Trust, and long active on TNC's Stewardship Committee, was elected to the Board of Trustees. Re-elected to serve a second term were Russell Brenneman, Richard Goodwin, William Ross and Edith Smart.

Proposed by-law changes were approved by the membership. Copies are available at the Chapter office.

Highlights of the Chapter's program for 1983 were reported by William Ross (finances) and W. Kent Olson (land acquisition).

The White Oak Award, given annually by the Connecticut Chapter to volunteers who have made outstanding personal contributions to the furtherance of the Conservancy's goals, was presented by Richard H. Goodwin to A. Eugene Billings, Jr. Gene was recognized for his dedication and hard work as Chairman of the Frederick C. Wolcott Preserve in Norfolk and the Silas Hall Pond Preserve in Winchester. Generous with his time, Gene has over the years given the Chapter long hours of counsel to strengthen the stewardship of all Connecticut preserves.

WALTER D. ALLEN MARSHLANDS

On September 5, 1984, The Nature Conservancy received two choice parcels of salt marsh on Sherwood Mill Pond from longtime Westport resident Beulah A. Northrup. The parcels, totalling 10.1 acres, are one of the largest salt marsh areas left in the southwest Connecticut. These marshes provide food and shelter for the organisms on which the herons, egrets, and ibis feed, and without these pristine sites, there would be no point in attempting to protect major roosting and nesting areas such as Chimon Island.

Earlier the Town of Westport had recognized the significance of Mrs. Northrup's salt marshes by granting her a fifteen-year open space easement.

The four-acre parcel adjoining Sherwood Island State Park is being deeded to the State to be incorporated in the park. The 6.1 acre parcel at the northwest corner of the pond will be given to the Aspetuck Land Trust. Both parcels will be transferred with restrictions to ensure that they remain natural areas. The Connecticut Chapter is deeply grateful for Mrs. Northrup's generosity.



Commissioner Stanley J. Pac of DEP thanks the Conservancy for a gift of six acres to enlarge Sherwood Island State Park, the site of the Chimon dedication. The acreage comprises one of two land gifts donated to TNC by Mrs. Beulah Northrup in honor of her father, the late Walter D. Allen. The parcel is prime feeding terrain for the Chimon Island heronry and will remain forever in its wild state. At rear are, left to right: Dennis Wolkoff, TNC Vice President in charge of the thirteen-state eastern region; S. Bruce Smart, Jr., CEO of the Continental Group and Corporate Chairman, Connecticut Critical Areas Program; William Blair, TNC President; and Ken Olson, Executive Director, Connecticut Chapter.

Photograph by Andrea Laubach.

WILLIAM MORRILL, STUYVESANT BEARNS HONORED

The Board of Trustees has recognized two Salisbury attorneys for their important contributions to land conservation in Connecticut, awarding them the Conservancy's Certificate of Special Recognition.

Trustee Dick Goodwin praised William F. Morrill for his "outstanding work as a writer of easements, his skills as a negotiator, his leadership as a conservationist, and his success as an officer in The Salisbury Association, one of the state's finest land trusts."

Stuyvesant K. Bearns was cited by Trustee Peter Cooper for his "dedication to land conservation through private action and for his generous energies in behalf of The Nature Conservancy's program in northwest Connecticut."